

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending and under consideration. Claims 13-19 are cancelled. Claims 1-12 currently stand rejected. Applicant has amended claims 1, 11 and 12. Applicant requests entry of the amendment and reconsideration of the outstanding rejections.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended claim 1 to replace the phrase “reprogramming a keratinocyte” with the phrase “affecting a change in gene expression of a keratinocyte.” Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced by this amendment, since support for the amendment can be found at paragraphs [0107] and [0108]. Claims 1, 11 and 12 have been amended to remove the term “reprogrammed” as it pertains to the cell, post treatment.

Applicants request the entry of the amendments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) because the amendments to the claims either cancel claims, comply with requirements of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Rejections under 35 USC § 112 1st ¶. enablement

Claims 1-12 stand rejected for allegedly failing to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. The Office Action indicates that “the data provided by Applicant is insufficient to demonstrate that the treated keratinocytes are reprogrammed into non-keratinocyte cells ... [but rather] has only demonstrated that the cell can express non-keratinocyte genes after treatment with agents ...,” (Office Action of 09/20/2007, page lines, lines 10, 11, 17 and 18.)

Without conceding the merits of the rejection and solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 1 to remove references to “reprogramming” and “reprogrammed cell.” The claims are now directed to a method of affecting a change in the gene expression of a keratinocyte comprising treating the keratinocyte with a nucleic acid demethylation agent and a histone deacetylation agent, such that the resultant cell expresses telomerase and has the capacity to express other non-keratinocyte gene products. Applicant refers to the actual working examples showing

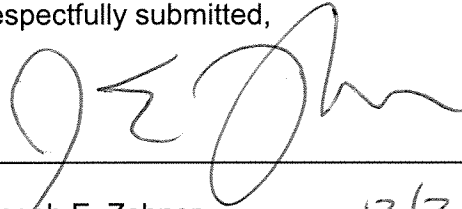
semi-quantitative RT-PCR results provided at Figure 2 and paragraphs [0096], [0163] and [0164], which clearly enable the claims.

Accordingly, Applicant request withdrawal of the enablement rejection of claims 1-2 under 35 USC § 112, 1st paragraph.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing arguments and amendments, Applicant believes that all rejections have been overcome and claims 1-12 are in a condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Applicant to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph E. Zahner
Applicant
CN 32809

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Joseph E. Zahner
4 Meredith Drive
Sparta, NJ 07871
Tel. No. (973) 660-6613
Fax. No. (973) 660-7151